

## TECHNICAL INNOVATOR/PROGRAM MANAGER

### DEFENSE ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY (DARPA).

Washington, D.C.

#### Client:

Our client, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), is the central research and development organization for the Department of Defense. It manages and directs selected basic and applied R&D projects and pursues research and technology where both risk and reward are very high and success may provide dramatic capability advances for military roles and missions. DARPA's mission is to prevent technological surprise for the United States and to create technological surprise for our adversaries. Their main tactic for executing their strategy is to constantly search worldwide for revolutionary high-payoff ideas and then sponsor projects that bridge the gap between fundamental discoveries and the provision of new military capabilities.

Program Managers say working for DARPA is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. While there are many reasons for these attitudes, the key is DARPA's culture of accomplishment. The Agency is not constrained by conventional thinking, and powerful ideas always get funded. Program funding ranges from \$250,000 to more than \$100,000,000.

DARPA is small and flexible, and enjoys substantial autonomy and freedom from bureaucratic impediments, which gives Program Managers the latitude they need to focus on the substance of their work. DARPA has very limited overhead and no laboratories or facilities. Again, the idea is to minimize any institutional interests that might distract the Agency from its charter for innovation. DARPA's website is [www.darpa.mil](http://www.darpa.mil).

#### Duties and Responsibilities:

DARPA Program Managers work with the best and brightest people in the world to develop and demonstrate leading-edge technologies for the Department of Defense. Throughout DARPA's 50 year history, the most successful Program Managers have been freewheeling innovators who are passionately committed to their programs' goals, and fearless in pursuing them.

DARPA Program Managers serve as U.S. Government employees for term positions of 4-6 years. After coming to DARPA with an idea, a Program Manager works with multiple programs to achieve set goals; positions and advocates for the programs; charts a course for the near- and long-term accomplishments necessary to reach objectives; and manages all technical, procurement, and financial aspects of the program. From their first day at DARPA, Program Managers are given the responsibility, flexibility, and support to quickly put ideas into action and aim to accomplish great advances in science and technology. A DARPA Program Manager works to create exciting, new science, and to make what have often been considered dreams, a reality.

#### Requirements:

DARPA is seeking degreed scientists and engineers with in-depth technical knowledge and problem solving experience. Successful candidates are those who are entrepreneurial, creative, can generate new ideas but also be willing to recognize and accept new ideas of others, have a drive to excel, and possess effective communication skills. They will have demonstrated abilities to chart programs for long-term exploration and development, and manage all technical, procurement, and financial aspects of research projects.

A DARPA Program Manager guides performers on projects; he/she works with and, at times, builds new technical communities. He/she needs strong leadership skills, people skills, public speaking skills, project management experience, financial management skills and the ability to make timely decisions.

Location: Arlington, VA  
Compensation: Competitive  
EEO: All candidates will be considered  
without regard to race, color, religion, sexual orientation, national  
origin, or disability.  
Citizenship: U.S. citizenship required.  
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